

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ISLAMA 03300 041225Z
ACTION SS-25

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P R 041142Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6573
INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS
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S E C R E T ISLAMABAD 3300

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: MNUC, PARM, PK, FR, US
SUBJECT: FRENCH REPROCESSING PLANT IN PAKISTAN

REF: A) PARIS 9563 B) PARIS 10913

1. FRENCH HAVE BACKSLID, OR LEAST JACOMET HAS,
CONSIDERABLE DISTANCE FROM PREVIOUS ASSURANCES
TO USG THAT FINAL OUTCOME WOULD BE CANCELLATION OF CONTRACT.
I NOTE THAT JACOMET THINKS PRES. GISCARD WILL MAKE CRUCIAL
DECISION (WHETHER TO INSIST ON "APPARENT CO-PROCESSING"
OR TO CANCEL CONTRACT WITH PAKISTAN) AFTER FIVE TO SEVEN
WEEKS.

2. SPECULATIONS FROM THIS SIDE OF THE HINDU KUCH MAY
DISPLAY MORE INGENUITY THAN ACCURACY, BUT I WONDER HOW
MUCH OF JACOMET'S BACKSLIDING IS RESULT OF CONSCIOUS
DECISION-MAKING AT HIGHER LEVELS AND HOW MUCH IS JACOMET'S
OWN PRECEPTION OF WHAT WAS NECESSARY IN ORDER TO KEEP
THE PAK REPROCESSING ISSUE FROM BECOMING A PUBLIC
CONFRONTATION BEFORE FRENCH ELECTIONS. IT MAY NOT BE
WHOLLY IDLE TO WONDER TOO WHETHER ANY AGREEABLE CHANGE
IN GOF ATTITUDE TOWARD NON-PROLIFERATION MAY OCCUR

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AFTER ELECTION SUCCESS AND FORMATION OF A NEW FRENCH
GOVERNMENT. IN ANY EVENT, GISCARD'S DECISION WILL MARK
AN IMPORTANT TURNING POINT IN USG-PAKISTAN RELATIONS,
BOTH IN CONTENT AND IN TIMING.

3. THE CONTENT OF GISCARD'S DECISION WILL BE IMPORTANT
ENOUGH TO BROADER US INTERESTS THAT I HOPE DEPT WILL

CONSIDER HIGHEST LEVEL APPROACH TO HIM TO SEEK OUTCOME
WE WANT.

4. ON TIMIN, WE HAVE POINTED OUT TO DEPT THAT DECISION
MUST BE REACHED IN MAY IF WE ARE TO HAVE TIME ENOUGH
TO GET NEW AID AGREEMENTS NEGOTIATED AND SIGNED FOR
CURRENT YEAR FUNDS BEFORE END OF FISCAL YEAR. AS DEPARTMENT
IS WELL AWARE, I CONTINUE TO HOPE THAT WE CAN BREAK
THROUGH OUR SELF-IMPOSED ABSTINENCE ON THE AID FRONT BY
SOMEHOW DELINKING THIS LONG DRAWN-OUT PROCESS ON THE
FRENCH SIDE FROM OUR DECISIONS ON THIS YEAR'S AID
PROGRAMMING.

5. FAILING FAVORABLE DECISION ON NEW AID COMMITMENTS
BY MAY (WHICH WOULD INVOLVE PRIOR CONGRESSIONAL EXPLANATIONS,
TO WHICH FRENCH WOULD PRESUMABLY HAVE TO AGREE), THERE
WILL BE NO FURTHER HIDING USG INTENTION NOT TO AUTHORIZE
NEW AID INPUTS THIS YEAR. WE WOULD BE FACED WITH EVIDENT
PHASE-DOWN OF AID PERSONNEL, TURNOVER OF SOME PROJECTS
TO OTHER DONORS TO CARRY OUT, REPROGRAMMING OF AID
FUNDS, AND OTHER MEASURES THAT WILL CLEARLY SIGNAL
END OF NEW USAID SUPPORT, AND WHICH WOULD PRESAGE FURTHER
STRAINS IN US/PAK RELATIONSHIP. I HOPE DEPT WILL KEEP
THIS IN MIND WHILE CONSIDERING BOTH CONTENT AND TIMING
OF ANY APPROACH TO GISCARD.

HUMMEL

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